

HNA REPORTER

HELDERBERG NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ACADEMY STATION, P.O. BOX 8841, ALBANY, NY 12208

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**Next HNA Membership Meeting:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006
7:00-9:00 pm**

At the Sage Colleges, Campus Center, Room 224

**Guest: Mike Yevloi,
Director of Planning
for the City of Albany**

**Agenda Items: New Scotland Library
Board Nominations
Update on Holland Avenue**

HNA's September Picnic a Success!

The seventh annual HNA Picnic was held on September 20, 2006 next to the firehouse on New Scotland Avenue. The weather was perfect for an evening picnic that drew close to 200 people who enjoyed good food and good company. Many left with one of the dozens of prizes donated by area businesses.

We are grateful to the following volunteers and establishments who have generously contributed services, supplies, food and/or financial support for our picnic. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support over the years.

SERVICES:

- Mayor Jerry Jennings for allowing us to use the field;
- Jim Sano, 9th Ward Councilman, for securing and paying for the permit to use the field;
- Albany Firehouse Engine No. 11 for their assistance during the picnic;
- Our cooks, Craig Waltz and Don Dugan, and their assistants, Dawn Dugan, Cyra Nealon and Dianne Thompson;
- St. Teresa of Avila School for the use of their tables (Father Vincent J. Ciotoli, Pastor; Sister Patricia Houlihan, Principal)

FOOD:

- Domino's Pizza (Kamrul Islam, Manager)
- Gallo's Deli & Pizzeria (Frank Gallo, Owner)
- Graney's Bar and Grill (Michael Graney, Owner, Nikia Sawyer, Manager)
- New Scotland Mobil (Keyvan, Owner, Triq, Manager)
- Pasquale's Pizza Restaurant (Victoria Gelaj, Owner)
- Ragonese Italian Imports (John & Vinny Ragonese, Owners)
- Sainato's Market (Mr. & Mrs. Lou Sainato, Owners)
- Western Bakery (formerly Leo's) (Lori, Manager)

GIFTS FOR THE RAFFLE:

- Amy Biancoli
- Henry F. Clas, Florist (Charles Clas, Owner/Manager)
- The Cattery (Peter Romano, Owner)
- Deja View Video (Steve Johnson, Owner)
- Isn't It Sweet (Frank Voce, Owner, Brian Bennett, Manager)
- New Scotland Florist (Tanya Manard, Owner)
- Pete & Olga Tenney
- Tone & Fit (Frank & Kathy Stramiello, Owners/Managers)
- Craig and Terry Waltz

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- St. Peter's Health Care Services
- Joe & Carol Shea

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DEAR NEIGHBORS:

Well, summer's gone, autumn is on its last legs, and winter is fast upon us (hopefully not too fast). We had an extremely successful neighborhood picnic in September, and I want to extend my thanks to all the businesses and volunteers who made it possible. We have added to our neighborhood ranks with new babies born to Jennifer Viggiani (HNA Co-Chair) and Kim Alvarez (Secretary), and we hope to have a new branch library in place by the time these babies are both old enough to use it.

That brings me to my next point. There has been a delay in the transfer of the field next to the firehouse from the City to the Library (see article on page 2). We need to work together as a neighborhood to save the plans for our new branch. Several times Jeff Cannell has come to our meetings and kept us up to date on the Library Board's progress toward keeping this vital resource part of the fabric of our neighborhood. On two occasions our Association has overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of an expanded branch and for the proposed location.

Apparently, that message isn't getting through—so we have to dial up the volume. Come to our next meeting to see how you can help.

Thanks for all your help! See you on November 15!

Craig Waltz, Chair

HELP! Newsletter deliverers needed for the following streets: Fleetwood, Forest, Ramsey and Helderberg. If you can help call HNA at 482-2775. Leave your name and phone number.

The Helderberg Neighborhood Association meets on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Junior College of Albany, Campus Center. 2007 meeting dates: 1/17, 3/21, 5/16, 7/18, 9/19 (Picnic), 11/21.

HNA Reporter is published every other month. Deadlines for articles or ads are 1/2; 2/26; 5/1; 7/1; 9/1; and 11/1. Ads and articles may be mailed to HNA, Academy Station. P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208. HNA Editors reserve the right to accept, reject or edit articles for content and space considerations.



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SAVE OUR NEW SCOTLAND BRANCH LIBRARY!

As of this writing, the library board is on the verge of finalizing its city-wide rebuilding plan, and we long expected the plan would include a branch library in the open lot next to the New Scotland fire station. But a New Scotland branch is suddenly in danger, and we need your involvement to save it. We may lose a local branch library because the city, after verbally agreeing to turn over the city-owned lot to the library, reversed itself in the last week of October, and now refuses to turn over the land. This jeopardizes our branch because we now have no place to build our library, and the library board may go forward with a city-wide plan without a New Scotland branch. (Our branch library at School 19 is closing in June 2007).

The mayor has said that he is responding to residents who oppose building a library next to the fire station. But the majority of people in our neighborhood believe this site is the right place for a branch library. Library leaders first came to us more than two years ago saying they wanted to have a combo library that served both Delaware Avenue and New Scotland. We made the case for a smaller New Scotland branch and a smaller one on Delaware that locals could walk to, and the lot next to the fire station was suggested. The library responded, selecting the fire station lot for New Scotland Avenue and the Chicorelli Funeral Home on Delaware for smaller branch libraries. The Helderberg Neighborhood Association has long supported the fire station lot, and has voted to endorse it twice, votes that express the majority view in the neighborhood.

We support this site for the following reasons:

- A branch in our neighborhood is a key investment, providing after-school learning opportunities for our children and the rest of us, and, through its meeting space, serving as a community center for everyone. It will provide another strong reason for businesses and families to stay in our neighborhood and our city, which will help improve our schools and ease our tax burden.
- The fire station is located halfway between St. Peter's and Albany Med, making it easy to walk to.
- This site is on city land, which makes it more affordable than private property for Albany taxpayers, and it's available now.
- Scrambling to find a new location so late in the process jeopardizes the inclusion of a New Scotland branch in the library's city-wide plan.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Dennis Gaffney: 482-9813 (dgaffney@nycap.rr.com). Please let our elected officials know of your support for this site as well: Mayor Jerry Jennings: 434-5100 (vanamburghb@ci.albany.ny.us), Common Council Members Jim Sano (jsano15@aol.com) and Cathy Fahey (cathyfahey7@nycap.rr.com). Please copy (bcc) your e-mails to hna@hnaalbany.com so we can keep track of the responses.

Get involved now if you want to have a branch library in our neighborhood!

Dennis Gaffney

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Bello Belsito and Dukes Bar

Robin Leyden moved to Pinewood Avenue three years ago and just opened a new restaurant this month called Bello Belsito. This Italian-American restaurant, formerly called Stone Ends, serves large portions at moderate prices.

Robin has worked in her grandmother's and mother's restaurants in the past and has always wanted to open her own. This is her first. Bello Belsito offers catering, banquets, private parties, and receptions. The food is homemade from scratch and they serve the best Tiramisu in the area.

Bello Belsito is ½ mile south of Albany on Route 9W. The hours are Monday through Saturday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dukes Bar is a sports bar next to the restaurant that is open until 12:00 am. It has its own pub menu, and provides karaoke every Saturday night.

Call 436-3480 for reservations and visit the website at www.bellobelsito.com.

Cyra Nealon

Rose Concierge Service

HNA neighbor Violetta De Rosa has recently begun a concierge service in the Helderberg neighborhood. Her business offers professional errand services and personal assistance, giving her clients more time to enjoy life. Some of the services include dropping off and picking up dry cleaning; helping with relocation tasks; and event planning, among others.

A unique service is the HomeCare Friends Program for able bodied seniors who require assistance with some tasks such as preparing meal plans, assistance with bills, arranging security home visits and other errands.

By providing a full concierge and lifestyle management service, Rose Concierge hopes to change peoples lives. To learn more about the services Rose Concierge can provide for you, call Violetta at 229-0155.

A Note from Jim Sano:

The Department of General Services asked me to remind all residents that the weekly trash pickup is exactly for that, weekly trash-what one would discard in the course of a normal week, not for unlimited amounts of trash. When a resident moves or is doing construction they need to hire a private hauler to discard this debris. DGS is strictly enforcing the existing laws to reduce the amount of trash on the streets, including charges for the labor to remove the debris and fines on average totaling \$300, which if unpaid will appear on your tax bill. Residents will still be allowed to discard an unlimited amount of non-hazardous waste during our annual Amnesty/spring cleaning day. At all other times, curbside trash should be limited to what one would normally discard in a week.

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7th Annual Neighborhoods Work Conference Offered

The 7th annual Neighborhoods Work Conference will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 9 am to 1 pm at the First Lutheran Church Hall, 646 State Street, Albany. This year's topic is "Revitalizing Albany: Strategic Planning and Implementation for Quality, Liveable Neighborhoods." The free conference is sponsored by the Neighborhood Resource Center, the Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations (CANA), Winn Development and Realty USA.

**First Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ**
 405 Quail Street
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Worship - 10:30 A.M.
 Christian Education - 9:45 A.M.

Ph: 482-4580 email: 1stCong@nycap.rr.com

Another Reason to Lock Your Car

Three 15 year-olds were arrested for car larcenies in the area of Grove and New Scotland at 2:20 am on November 1 after a neighbor became suspicious and called police. The youths were in possession of burglary tools, CD and MP3 players, a sirrius satellite receiver and coins. One of the youths stated they were just stealing from unlocked cars. The trio were charged with possession of burglar tools and possession of stolen property.

Thanks to our neighbor for alerting police.

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Call for Nominations for HNA Board

In January, HNA members will elect a Board of Directors for 2007. Positions available are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Chair and Membership Chair. E-mail hna@hnaalbany.com or call 482-2775 if you would like to nominate yourself or another person.

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Sidewalk Repairs

The City of Albany is responsible for sidewalk repairs. Albany's Hazardous Sidewalk Repair Program replaces sidewalks that pose an obvious tripping hazard. Generally, that means that the city will repair uneven sections of sidewalk if one side of a crack or joint is at least 1 1/2 inches higher than the other. Sidewalks may also be repaired or replaced if they are severely deteriorated. Property owners are responsible for notifying the Department of General Services of sidewalks that may be in hazardous condition. Once the complaint has been verified, the city makes temporary repairs to reduce the hazard and schedules the sidewalk for replacement in the next construction season. There are no fees for sidewalk repairs and replacement. You can reach DGS at 427-7480. For information about city services, visit the DGS section of the Albany website at: http://www.albanyny.org/government/departments/d_genserv.asp.

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Landmark Consulting is happy to offer 25% off typical consulting fees for Helderberg Neighborhood residents.

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HNA's membership year runs January to December. Your dues help support the cost of this newsletter and several free events throughout the year. Time to renew your membership!



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Household: \$ 5.00
- Business: \$10.00
- Associate: \$10.00

Each household membership has one vote. Business members will receive one free ad in the HNA Reporter, and will have voting rights. Associate Members (not living within our boundaries) will have the HNA Reporter mailed to them.

Please enroll me as a member of the Helderberg Neighborhood Association. Enclosed is a check, made out to HNA, in the amount of \$_____ for a _____ membership. (Checks may be mailed to: HNA, Academy Station, P.O. Box 8841, Albany, NY 12208 OR brought to the next HNA meeting.) Date mailed: _____

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